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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/781,325	02/17/2004	Jussi Piispanen	944-001.070-2	9454

4955 7590 11/18/2005

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EXAMINER

EL HADY, NABIL M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2152

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/781,325	Applicant(s) PIISPANEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Nabil M. El-Hady	Art Unit 2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2152

1. Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted prior Art, hereinafter "AAPA", in reference to SyncML Initiative (including standards and specifications for SyncML, SyncML Representation protocol, and SyncML Sync Protocol, SyncML Device Management Protocol)

4. As to claim 1, AAPA discloses the invention substantially as claimed including a method for at least partially synchronizing a first data store residing on a first device and a second data store residing on a second device (spec., p1, lines 17-24), the data stores each being used for storing data as data units in folders, the folders in combination defining a data structure (folder is any container of data unit, spec., p5, lines 28-31), the method comprising the first device sending a message to the second device (spec., p6, lines 12-18); wherein information about data in the first data store is transmitted in said message (spec., p5, line 32 to p6, line 24) , and information about a change in the data structure of the first device is also transmitted in the message in an element or field of the message (spec., p6, lines 2-24; and p9, lines 21-24); and further wherein said information about data in the first data store is placed in the message in an

Art Unit: 2152

element or field different from the element or field where the information about a change in the data structure is placed (part of the standard, SyncML Representation Protocol).

5. As to claim 15, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above. In addition, AAAPA discloses a device adapted for at least partially synchronizing a first data store residing on the device with a second data store residing on a second device (spec., p1, lines 17-24), the data stores each being used for storing data as data units in folders, the folders having interrelationships and so defining a data structure (folder is any container of data unit, spec., p5, lines 28-31), the device comprising: means for sending a message to the second device (spec., p6, lines 12-18); wherein information about data in the first data store transmitted in said message (spec., p5, line 32 to p6, line 24), and information about a change in the data structure the first device also transmitted the message in an element or field of the message (spec., p6, lines 2-24; and p9, lines 21-24); and further wherein said information about data in the first data store placed in the message in an element or field different from the element or field where the information about a change the data structure is placed (part of the standard, SyncML Representation Protocol).

6. As to claim 2, AAPA discloses the element or field where the information about data in the first data store is placed or the element or field where the information about a change in the data stricture is placed is a field of the message (part of the standard, SyncML Representation Protocol).

7. As to claim 3, AAPA discloses the information about data in the first data store is included in a data element of the message (spec., p7, lines 18-25; and p8, line 30 to p9, line 7).

8. As to claim 4, AAPA discloses the data element is a data element of a protocol command element (spec., p7, lines 18-25; and p9, lines 12-17).

9. As to claims 5 and 6, AAPA discloses the information about a change in the data structure is included in a non-data element of the message, and wherein the non-data element is a non-data element of a protocol command element (spec., p9, lines 12-17).

10. As to claim 7, AAPA discloses the information about a change in the data structure includes folder information (folder is defined to be any container of data unit, spec., p5, lines 28-31; and p9, lines 21-24).

11. As to claim 8, AAPA discloses a data identification element is contained in a protocol command element in the message, and the protocol command element in combination with the data identification element indicates the information about change in the data structure of the first data store (spec., p7, lines 8-14; and p9, lines 8-11).

12. As to claim 9, AAPA discloses a data identification element is included in the message and the information about change in the data structure of the first data store is provided in the data identification element (spec., p6, lines 2-24; p7, lines 8-14; and p9, lines 21-24).

13. As to claim 10, AAPA discloses the first device functions as a client in a client-server protocol and the second device as a server in the client-server protocol (spec., p1, line 17 to p2, line 9).

14. As to claim 11, AAPA discloses the first device functions as a server client-server protocol and the second device as a client in the client-server protocol, and the step of the first device sending the message is responsive to a client message from the second device and includes resolving any conflicts posed by the client message in respect to the first data store (spec., p1, line 17 to p2, line 9).

15. As to claims 12 and 20, AAPA discloses the data in the data stores are used for device management by applications hosted on the devices (spec., p2, lines 30-33; and SyncML device management protocol).

16. As to claim 13 and 21, AAPA discloses the data in the data stores are used as user data by applications hosted on the devices (spec., p1, line 31 to p2, line 9).

17. As to claim 14, a computer program product comprising a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor, with said computer program code characterized in that includes instructions for performing the steps of the method of claim 1 is inherent in AAPA's disclosure and the corresponding sync SyncML protocol.

18. As to claim 16, AAPA discloses the device is either a wireless communication terminal or a wire line communication terminal (spec., p1, lines 17-24).

Art Unit: 2152

19. As to claim 17, AAPA discloses the device functions as a client in a client-server model (spec., p1, lines 17-30).

20. As to claim 18, AAPA discloses the device functions as a server in a client-server model, and further comprises means for receiving a request to synchronize from the second device, and for then sending the message in response to the request to synchronize (part of sync SyncML protocol).

21. As claim 19, AAPA discloses means for receiving the message, and wherein the device functions as a server in a client-server model and include means for resolving conflicts posed by the message (spec., p1, line 17 to p2, line 9).

22. As to claim 22, AAPA discloses a system, comprising a first device according to claim 15 And also comprising the second device hosting the second data store (spec., p1, line 17 to p2, line 9).

23. As to claim 23, AAPA discloses the first device functions as a server in a client-server model and the second device functions as a client in the client-server model (spec., p1, line 17 to p2, line 9).

24. As to claim 24, AAPA discloses the means for sending to the second device a message is responsive to request sent by the second device to synchronize to the second device (Part of Sync SyncML protocol).

25. AAPA may not explicitly disclose and in details the field components of the message between the first and the second devices, however, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that applicant's disclosure does not vary from the SyncML Initiative (including standards and specifications for SyncML, SyncML Representation protocol, and SyncML Sync Protocol, SyncML Device Management Protocol). Specifically applicant discloses in p9, lines 21-24 that communicating changes in a directory structure is not problematic if the same application takes care of handling the data and handling the communication according to a synchronization protocol. At least it is obvious that applicant did not clearly point out the patentable novelty, which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited, or the objections made.

26. Applicant's arguments filed 9/16/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Therefore rejection of claims 1-24 is maintained.

27. In the remarks, applicants argued in substance that (1), claim 1 implicitly defines a change in a data structure as a change in folders used to contain data. (2), the prior art for SyncML allows only synchronization with respect to changes in data units. (3) noting that some claimed limitation "communicating changes in a data structure" is not problematic in view of the prior art is not a statement that the limitation is taught or suggested by the prior art. (4), the prior art does not make it problematic to determine a way to communicate such a change when the application communicating the change is the same as the application that creates or maintains the data contained in the folders. (5) it is not clear from the prior art how this might be done in case of more than one application placing data in the folders/ containers to which changes have been made. (6) the application explains that the prior art does not provide for

Art Unit: 2152

communicating changes in the data structure/folders used to contain data, which is recited in claim 1. (7) SyncML Representation protocol Standard does not teach that information about data and information about a change in a data structure are placed in different elements or fields.

28. Examiner respectfully traverses applicants' remarks.

29. As to point (1), claim1 recites in the preamble "data stores each being used for storing data as data units in folders, the folders in combination defining a data structure", and in one of the limitations " information about data ...and information about a change in the data structure .. is also transmitted". First, the first part of the recitation " the folders in combination defining a data structure" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951). Second, the second part of the recitation " information about data ...and information about a change in the data structure .. is also transmitted", the data structure may be interpreted in the light of the specification as an arrangement of container of data units. Accordingly, a change in a data unit in the data structure may be viewed as a change in the data structure, in other words, the change in the data structure is a result of a change in data in the data structure.

Art Unit: 2152

30. As to point (2), the prior art as indicated in the specification (page 5, line 32 to page 6, line 6) allows for “a user of an application can make changes to both the data units that belong to the application (such as adding a new data unit or replacing a data unit with an updated version because the user has used the application to change the contents of the data unit, and so on) as well as to how the data items are stored (such as adding a new folder and moving some data units from an already existing folder to the new folder), i.e. to both the data units as well as to the folders (i.e. the overall directory structure)”. The prior art also as indicated in the specification (page 9, lines 21-24) allows for “communicating changes in a directory structure if the same application takes care of handling the data and handling the communication according to a synchronization protocol”.

31. As to points (3) and (4), the specification (page 9, lines 21-24) indicates that some claimed limitation “communicating changes in a data structure” is not problematic in view of the prior art. While this is not a statement that the limitation is taught or suggested by the prior art, it is clear indication that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use or modify such prior art in an obvious way in order to communicate changes in a data structure, specifically, when the application communicating the change is the same as the application that creates or maintains the data contained in the folders.

32. As to point (5), applicant argues that it is not clear from the prior art how this might be done in case of more than one application placing data in the folders/ containers to which changes have been made. In response to applicant's argument that the prior art used fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., in case of more than one application placing data in the folders/ containers to which

Art Unit: 2152

changes have been made.) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

33. As to point (6), applicant argues that the application explains that the prior art does not provide for communicating changes in the data structure/folders used to contain data, which is recited in claim 1. As mentioned before, the prior art as indicated in the specification (page 5, line 32 to page 6, line 6) allows for “a user of an application can make changes to both the data units that belong to the application (such as adding a new data unit or replacing a data unit with an updated version because the user has used the application to change the contents of the data unit, and so on) as well as to how the data items are stored (such as adding a new folder and moving some data units from an already existing folder to the new folder), i.e. to both the data units as well as to the folders (i.e. the overall directory structure)”. In other words, the prior art does provide for communicating changes in the data structure/folders used to contain data, which is recited in claim 1.

34. As to point (7), applicant argues that SyncML Representation Protocol Standard does not teach that information about data and information about a change in a data structure are placed in different elements or fields. The specification (page 6, line 12 to page 9, line 20) gives a brief about SyncML Representation Protocol Standard, and which asserts that different information are placed in different elements or fields. It is noted that “SyncML message is a nested structure consisting of one or more elements types, and one or more SyncML messages can be associated with what is called a SyncML package. The SyncML Message is an individual XML document consisting of one or more elements each of one or more element types. The

Art Unit: 2152

document consists of a header, specified by the SyncHdr element type, and a body, specified by the SyncBody element type. The SyncML header specifies routing and versioning information about the SyncML Message. The SyncML body is a container for one or more SyncML Commands. The SyncML Commands are specified by individual element types. The SyncML Commands act as containers for other element types that describe the specifics of the SyncML command, including any data or meta-information. SyncML defines request commands and response commands. Request commands include, for example: add (a command that allows the originator to ask that one or more data units be added to data accessible to the recipient) alert (allowing the originator to notify the recipient of a condition; copy (allowing the originator to ask that one or more data units accessible to the recipient be copied); delete (allowing the originator to ask that one or more data units accessible to the recipient be deleted or archived); get (allowing the originator to ask for one or more data units from the recipient); and search (allowing the originator to ask that the supplied query be executed against one or more data units accessible to the recipient). The only response commands are currently: status (indicating the completion status of an operation or that an error occurred while processing a previous request); and results (used to return the data results of either a Get or Search SyncML Command). SyncML uses identifiers to identify data units or folders. The identifiers are included in what are called the Source and Target element types, and can be a combination of Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs), Uniform Resource Names (URNs), and textual names. As already mentioned, the SyncML representation protocol (i.e. a SyncML message) is a document mark-up consisting of XML element types. The element types are defined in terms of their purpose or usage, parent elements, any restrictions on content or use and content model. The element types include so-called common use elements, message container elements, data description elements, protocol management elements, and protocol command elements. Common use

Art Unit: 2152

element types are element types used by other SyncML element types, and include, for example, archive, for indicating that the data specified in a delete command should be archived by the recipient of the delete command, rather than simply deleted. Thus the delete command can use the archive common use element and so is referred to as the parent element of the archive common use element type, this context. Another common use element type is the Cmd element type, which is used to specify the SyncML command referenced by a Status element type (and so the Status element type is the parent element in this context). Another is the CmdID element type, which is used to specify a SyncML message-unique command identifier, and can have various parent elements, including: Add, Alert, Atomic, Copy, Delete, Exec, Get, Map, Put, Replace, Results, Search, Sequence, Status, and Sync. Of particular note in respect to the invention are the common element types LocName, LocURI, Source, and Target.

LocName used to specify the display name for the target or source address, and so can have as parent elements Target or Source. LOCURI specifies the target or source specific address, and can also have as parent elements Target or Source. The common element type Source is used to specify source routing or mapping information; its parent elements include: Item, Map, MapItem, Search, Sync, and SyncHdr. Target is used specify target routing or mapping information, and its Parent Elements include: Item, Map, MapItem, Search, Sync, and SyncHdr.

Message container element types provide basic container support for SyncML messages. Three such element types are: SyncML, for specifying the container for a SyncML message, and having no parents since it is what is called a root or document element; SyncHdr, for specifying the container for the revisioning information or the routing information both) in the SyncML message, and having as a parent element SyncML element; and SyncBody, for specifying the container for the body or contents of a SyncML message, and also having as a parent element a SyncML element. Data description elements are used as container elements for data

Art Unit: 2152

exchanged in a SyncML Message; data description elements include the following element types: Data, for specifying discrete SyncML data, and used by (parent elements) Alert, Cred, Item, Status, and Search element types; Item, for specifying a container for item data, and used by (parent elements) Add, Alert, Copy, Delete, Exec, Get, Put, Replace, Results, and Status; and Meta, for specifying meta-information about the parent element type, and used by (parent elements) Add, Atomic, Chal, Copy, Cred, Delete, Item, Map, Put, Replace, Results, Search, Sequence, and Sync. The protocol management elements include, at present, only the element type Status, for specifying the request status code for an indicated SyncML command, and used by (parent element) SyncBody. Finally, there are the Protocol Command Elements. These include the command elements already mentioned, for example: Add, for specifying that data be added to a data collection, used by (parent elements) Atomic, Sequence, Sync, SyncBody; Delete; Replace; and so on. The above element types are set out in the standard, SyncML Representation Protocol, available on the Internet.”

35. From the above discussion it is again obvious that applicant did not clearly point out the patentable novelty, which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited, or the objections made.

36. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

Art Unit: 2152

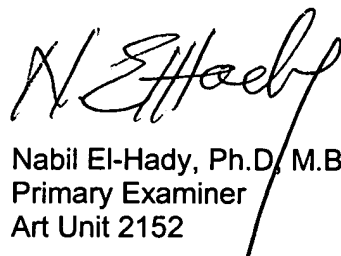
will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

37. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nabil M. El-Hady whose telephone number is (571) 272-3963. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 14, 2005



Nabil El-Hady, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2152